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January 27, 2020

2020 FEB -5 P 3:09

RE: Docket Number: RM2017-3

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

Dear Sirs/Madams,

Catholic Relief Services has been a leading international humanitarian agency since 1943. Highly trusted and globally respected, we partner with people, organizations and governments around the world to end poverty, disease, hunger and injustice—always based on need, not creed. Guided by the belief that we are all one human family, CRS puts humanity first.

This is a sampling of our impact in fiscal year 2018:

- 76 years of service
- 114 countries
- 127.3M people served through innovative and lifesaving projects including:
 - 117 Agriculture projects
 - 66 Education projects
 - 107 Health projects
 - 52 Water and Sanitation projects

To fund these projects, CRS must raise over \$226,000,000 from private donors, and direct mail is large part of our private fundraising strategy. We mail over 21 million pieces of mail annually, with a postal budget of over \$2.8 million. We are considered "Large Volume Mailers", and a postage increase could mean that we may need to cut our mailing budget. An increase of even a cent or two at this volume makes a huge difference in the volume of fundraising mailers we are able to send, which would have a direct effect on our fundraising revenue, and the number of people we are able to serve around the world.

We are doing everything we possibly can to keep costs at a minimum so that we can be efficient with every dollar we raise. Currently, only 7% of our overall annual budget pays for fundraising, awareness and administrative costs. We need your help and the help of the Postal Regulatory Commission. We simply cannot afford postage increases over the Consumer Price Index. I hope we can count on you to understand and act on the importance of the CPI inflation cap on postage increases. Please help CRS continue to serve millions of vulnerable people around the world.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Durlington
Director of Annual Giving